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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

Mr. Timothy Hopkins has made provision for the endowment and maintenance of the seaside laboratory at Pacific Grove recently established under the auspices of the Leland Stanford Junior University, mention of which was made in the last number of this journal. It is intended to make this a place for original investigation of the habits, life history, structure and development of marine animals and plants and to carry on work here similar to that which has made the aquarium at Naples known all over the world.

The Hopkins Laboratory will be under the general direction of Profs. Gilbert, Jenkins and Campbell. It will be open during the summer vacation and its facilities will be at the disposal of persons wishing to carry on original investigations in biology as well as of students and teachers interested in that line of subjects. It will be fully provided with aquaria while microscopes, microtomes and other instruments necessary for investigations will be taken from the laboratories of the University.

The Botanical Club of San Francisco has 155 members. It holds meetings on the first and third Mondays of each month in the lecture hall of the California Academy of Sciences. The officers for the present year are: President, Dr. Douglass H. Campbell; Vice President, Mrs. S. W. Dennis; Secretary, Frank H. Voslet; Treasurer, Miss A. M. Manning; Librarian, Mrs. S. W. Burtchaell; Curator, Miss E. B. Falkenan; Councillors, Mrs. L. D. Emerson, C. C. Riedy, and Miss C. H. Hittell.

The announcement is made that *Grevillea*, the well-known journal of cryptogamic botany, will cease publication with the close of the twentieth volume, unless other hands than those of its present editor, Mr. M. C. Cooke, take it up and carry it on.

F. B. Caulfield, an entomologist of Montreal, died in that city March 15, 1892.

Dr. Unna offers yearly a prize of Mark 300 for dermatological essays. This year the subject is "*Schwund und Regeneration des elastischen Gewebes der Haut unter verschiedenen pathologischen*

Verhältnissen." The essay must reach the publication office of Leopold Voss in Hamburg by the beginning of December, 1892. The judges this year are Profs. Klebs and Hoyer.

Mr. Godefroy Lunel died in Geneva, Nov. 17, 1891. His place as director of the Natural History Museum there has been filled by the nomination of Dr. Maurice Bedot.

The Natural History Society of Buda-Pesth, Austria, is said to have a membership rising to 7800.

Prof. H. S. Williams of Cornell, has been elected professor of geology at Yale University, to take the place of the Veteran James D. Dana. Prof. Dana still retains his connection with the University and will do some lecturing, but advancing years do not allow him to devote himself as before to class work.

Mr. W. M. Goldthwaite of New York City has started a new magazine entitled "Minerals" the scope of which is indicated by the name.

A Correction.—The article entitled "Abnormal Duplication of the Urosonic in *Rana catesbiana*" in this journal for August 1891, should have been credited to Wm. L. Sherwood, 199 West 134th St., New York City.

The Rev. C. J. Ball, M.A., continues to advance arguments in support of the identity of the ancient Accadian ideograms with early Chinese signs, in a series of interesting papers read before the Society of Biblical Archeology, and printed in the Proceedings of the Society. The Accadians were the original inhabitants of Assyria and Babylonia prior to the incursion of the Semitic race. By some writers they are credited with the invention of that cuneiform or arrow-headed and wedge-shaped script, from which M. De Lacouperie maintains the early Chinese characters were derived, being cuneiform merely transferred from left to top, sometimes from an upright to a horizontal position.

Mr. Stewart Culin, of Philadelphia, the author of some able papers on "The Secret Societies of the Chinese in America," and "Chinese Games with Dice," has just issued another agreeably written memoir, "On the Gambling Games of the Chinese in America." It appears in the fourth number of the first volume of the Series in Philology, Literature, and Archeology of the publications of the University Press

of Pennsylvania,—a very promising series of well-printed little monographs on various subjects, issued at a most reasonable price. The game of fan t'an, or "that of repeatedly spreading out," is played in a cellar or basement, a sentinel being stationed without the door to give notice of the approach of danger. A second, of which the name Pak kop piu signifies "the game of the white pigeon ticket," is played in attics, pigeons being formerly employed to convey the tickets and winning numbers from the offices to their patrons. This is really a kind of lottery, and the assistants who prepare the papers are dignified with the title of Sin' shang, literally "first born" the equivalent to "Mr.," and the only title of respect used among the Chinese laborers in America. Gamblers of this nationality, like all others, are very superstitious, avoid the use of certain colors, and eat in silence the suppers provided by the gambling companies. They propitiate the gods with liberal offerings, and sometimes erect shrines in recognition of a successful *coup*. Their love of games of chance, in Mr. Culin's opinion, tends to give permanency to the Chinese settlements in America, as they cluster round the gambling places in the large cities.